

Lili Marlene

A new musical

By Michael Antin

Rehearsal Draft 2-15-17

Contact:
Your Name
Address
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<< OR >>

Represented by:

CAST OF CHARACTERS - In Order of Appearance

Rosie Penn - Cabaret singer (a feminine Marlene Dietrich type). She is a popular performer with a Jewish heritage that she tries to keep quiet. She has a sweetness about her that comes through even when she is insulting her audience. As loving and a person that you could find in a world where most around her are not.

Renate - She is the Emcee of the shows at the fictional club SCHNELLES KATZEN-KABARETT, and Rosie's best friend. She is more of a masculine Marlene type and dresses to show it. A sly vixen with an eye for the ladies.

Willi - aka Count Hans Wilhelm von Kleister-Graf. From a Prussian noble family, he works as a mid-level bureaucrat in the German Foreign Office ("AA"). A sophisticated gentleman who loves the vastness German culture and telling bad jokes. Willi makes it his personal mission to preserve all the best of Germany by getting them out of the country.

Marlena - aka Countess Marlena Von Kleister-Graf Kellsburg, M.D. Willi's older sister, she wears many hats with grace. She is the mother of Janine, Kurt and Jacob, wife of Friedrich Kellsburg, M.D. and a doctor in her own right with an Ob-Gyn practice. She is deferential to her husband, but willing to take risks behind his back to ensure the safety of her patients.

Friedrich Kellsburg, M.D. Father of Janine, Kurt and Jake and husband of Marlene Kellsburg, M.D, he is from a wealthy family business manufacturers. He believes in the power of government because he has always benefitted from it. He serves as second in command of the German health services in the Weimar Republic.

Janine Kellsburg - daughter of Friedrich and Marlene and fraternal twin of Kurt Kellsburg. Quiet and a little distant, Janine will still mix it up with her brother. She is training as an MD thinking of becoming a plastic surgeon. Wants to keep her head down and focus on her work but Kurt keeps challenging her. (Actor will double as a night club dancer.)

Kurt Kellsburg - fraternal twin of Janine and political activist rising in Social Democrat party, the principal opposition to Hitler. Shares a love with his Uncle Willi for making bad jokes. He is passionate about Germany and is willing to fight for it.

Jacob Kellsburg - 14 year old son of Friedrich and Marlene. The forgotten child somewhat of the Kellsburg clan, Jacob finds that he wants to fit in with his family, but doesn't quite know how. Has to grow up quickly when trouble strikes the family. (The woman playing Jacob will double as a night club dancer.)

1 Male and 1 Female ensemble. To play all the minor roles of cabaret dancer, assistant, SS officer, Field Marshal, Brownshirts, Border guards, etc. as needed.

SCHNELLES KATZEN-KABARETT - NIGHT - JUNE 1932

ROSIE, a beautiful cabaret singer,
is preening and posing as the
CABARET DANCERS sing about her.

SONG - "FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER"

ROSIE AND CAST

EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
BARMAID, BE A DEAR
PLEASE BE SO KIND AND BRING ME
ANOTHER STEIN OF BEER

ROSIE

My goodness, that was terrible. Not me. I was
wonderbar. Maybe because that was the first
time you heard it. I will give you a chance to
redeem yourselves. First, they will sing the
verse. Remember, join in the chorus.

WILLI, gregarious and fun-loving,
wears in a very expensive suit and
spiffy hat. He is caught up in the
fun, along with the cast.

As Rosie and girls sing the song,
Rosie dances through the cabaret,
with a beer stein, touching a mug
of one person at each table.

DANCERS

WHO THE HELL IS ROSIE?
SHE'S OUR FAV'RITE SINGER
AND EV'RY NOTE SHE SINGS
IS A PERFECT-PITCH HUMDINGER
SHE SERENADES US BARFLIES
AND MAKES US FEEL REAL GOOD
AND WHEN WE GET TOO ROWDY
SHE MAKES US BEHAVE THE WAY WE SHOULD

ROSIE AND ALL

EINS ZWEI DREI VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER
EINS ZWEI DREI VIER
BARMAID, BE A DEAR
PLEASE BE SO KIND AND BRING ME
ANOTHER STEIN OF BEER

Rosie addresses the crowd.

ROSIE

That was much better. Still terrible but much better. Now, you can't perform in a cabaret if you aren't going to dance. So this time, you will get up and dance with us.

As she touches a cast member, she invites all of persons at the table to join her in the dance to the song, so that with the last chorus, each of the cast is on stage with a beer stein, raising their steins to the heaven as the song finishes.

DANCERS

WHEN ROSIE SINGS TO US
HER VOICE IS SO DIVINE
WE'RE SURE SHE IS AN ANGEL
AND NOT JUST A LOVELY FRAULEIN
WE NEVER WANT TO LEAVE
WE WANT TO LISTEN ALL NIGHT LONG
WE LOVE TO HEAR HER SING
SONG AFTER SONG AFTER SONG.

ROSIE AND CAST

EINS ZWEI DREI VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
MY THROAT'S SO DRY I THINK
I'M GONNA DIE RIGHT HERE
EINS ZWEI DREI VIER
BARMAID, FILL MY STEIN
VIER DREI ZWEI EINS
BRING A STEIN FOR FRITZ AND HEINZ

WE'LL RAISE OUR STEINS UP HIGH
AND TOAST OUR TIME TOGETHER
FOR THIS TIME IS THE BEST TIME
NO OTHER TIME IS BETTER
WE'LL STAND UP STRAIGHT AND TALL
WE'LL HOLLER AND WE'LL HOOT
WITH OUR STEINS UP IN THE AIR
OUR ROSIE WE'LL SALUTE!

EINS ZWEI DREI VIER
MY STEIN CRIES OUT FOR BEER
FUNF SECHS SIEBEN ACHT
I THINK I'M GETTING CROCKED
BARMAID, IT'S OKAY
JUST HURRY! BRING ME BEER
'CAUSE I WON'T BE GOING HOME TONIGHT
I'LL SLEEP IT OFF RIGHT HERE

NO! I WON'T BE GOING HOME TONIGHT
I'LL SLEEP IT OFF RIGHT HERE

As they finish the song, the patrons return to their seats, and Rosie, with a flourish, finishes her beer and puts down the stein.

ROSIE

Thank you so much for joining in. Come back next week and we'll get it right. Of course, I'm kidding, you were lovely. Now before I go...

(groans from patrons)

I can't stay here all night. What would my mother say?

(audience reacts)

I know your mother doesn't care if you ever come home but my mommy loves me. Anyway, an evening at our little club wouldn't be complete without my favorite way to say goodbye. It is our song, a good German song. Since you sing so well, join in if you wish.

SONG - "LILI MARLENE"

UNDERNEATH THE LANTERN,
BY THE BARRACK GATE
DARLING I REMEMBER
THE WAY YOU USED TO WAIT
T'WAS THERE THAT YOU WHISPERED TENDERLY,
THAT YOU LOVED ME,
YOU'D ALWAYS BE,
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE

TIME WOULD COME FOR ROLL CALL,
TIME FOR US TO PART,
DARLING I'D CARESS YOU
AND PRESS YOU TO MY HEART,
AND THERE 'NEATH THAT FAR-OFF LANTERN LIGHT,
I'D HOLD YOU TIGHT ,
WE'D KISS GOOD NIGHT,
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE

Upon finishing her song, taking her bows, she goes to her dressing room. RENATE, the host, comes forward and says:

RENATE

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Penn will be appearing here at the Schnelles Katzen-Kabarett each night for the rest of this month. On your way out, please make your reservations, so you can see her again and again. Emphasis on the phrase, "on your way out." Gute nacht.

As Renate finishes, the patrons filter out. Willi approaches.

RENATE (CONT'D)

Do you need a compass? Out is that way.

WILLI

Please tell Ms. Penn that Count Hans Wilhelm von Kleister-Graf would like to congratulate her backstage.

RENATE

(joking)

That's a whole lot of name, mein herr. Even for a German. I don't know if I can remember it.

Willi hands over his card, accompanied by some money.

WILLI

To help train your memory.

Renate counts the money, then bows to Willi and exits the stage.

SONG - "THE STAR IN THE SKY"

DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO
BAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH

I COME TO HEAR HER SING
AS OFTEN AS TIME ALLOWS
THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION
THERE IS BUT ONE STAR IN THE SKY
I LOVE TO HEAR HER SING
WITH EXCITEMENT AND JOY
THOUGH I MAY MISS A NIGHT
EACH SHOW IS A GLORIOUS SIGHT

I LISTEN TO HER VOICE
AS SHE PRESENTS EACH NUMBER
WITH ENERGY AND POWER
A TOP THE MUSICAL TOWER
SHE HAS A BECKONING SMILE
SO DELIGHTFUL IS SHE
I HOPE THAT THIS STAR
WILL SEE SOMETHING IN ME?

I COME TO HEAR HER SING
SO MANY NIGHTS IN A ROW
I NO LONGER WONDER WHY
THERE IS BUT ONE STAR IN THE SKY

DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO DOO
BAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH DAH!

LIGHTS DIM.
LIGHTS UP ON:

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rosie is sitting at her dressing
table, removing makeup. She sees
Renate in her mirror.

RENATE
Hey, Schatz. You'll never guess who's here.

ROSIE
A film director to take me away to Hollywood.

RENATE
Close.
(reading from card)
Count Hans Wilhelm von Kleister-Graf.

ROSIE
Who's that?

RENATE
I stopped paying attention after I heard the
word "Count."

ROSIE
Very funny. Is this another one of your cousins
who wants a date?

RENATE
My cousins don't dress this well.
(She flashes money)
Or pay this well. Here. See for yourself.

Renate hands off the card. Rosie
reads it.

ROSIE
My goodness, a Count? An honest to goodness
Count? Well, you don't see that everyday. What
does he want?

RENATE
He has asked to come to your dressing room.

MUSIC VAMPS. There is a brief knock and the door opens a crack and Renate sticks her head in.

RENATE

Are we decent?

Rosie and the women shriek, tossing previously gathered items into the air in a panic.

RENATE (CONT'D)

(OS to Willi)

She just needs a moment longer.

The women redouble their efforts to clean up the room as they finish the song.

ROSIE

WITH MY REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR
ASSUMING A COME-HITHER POSE.
OH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN STORE
HE'LL SOON BE KNOCKING AT MY DOOR

WHAT COULD A COUNT WANT WITH ME? CHORUS
I REALLY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
I'M EXCITED AS I CAN BE
A COUNT IS COMING TO SEE ME!

There is a knock on the door. Rosie scrambles around like a chicken sans head and then reclines in a chair. The other dancers hide in the room.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Come in.

Renate brings in Willi. Rosie rises to greet them. Rosie is instantly smitten with him.

RENATE

Miss Rosie Penn. May I present the Count Hans Wilhelm von...

(struggling to remember)

von...

Renate retrieves the card from Rosie and reads aloud.

RENATE (CONT'D)

Count Hans Wilhelm von Kleister-Graf.

WILLI

Please, Miss Penn, do not stand on ceremony.
Call me Willi, as my friends do. And, may I
call you Rosie?

RENATE

(interrupting)

Of course you can.

(extending hand)

And I am -

ROSIE

Leaving.

(to the host)

You don't want to miss your ride.

She pushes Renate out the door.

RENATE

I want to hear everything tomorrow.

ROSIE

Gute nacht, Schatz.

(closing the door.)

Some people just don't know how to act around
nobility.

Rosie sees one of her chorus girls
behind a curtain and remembers
that they are all in the room.

WILLI

Oh, have you spent much time at court?

During the next bit, Rosie rambles
as she creates a distraction so
the women can leave the room.

ROSIE

Oh, I was practically raised at court. My
father was dear friends with a uh... what was
his... Baron. Yes. The Baron. A lovely man.

A chorus woman makes her escape.

WILLI

Oh? What was his name? Perhaps I know him.

ROSIE

I doubt it. What I mean to say... is that he
wasn't local royalty. He was Prussian.

WILLI

I am Prussian. We have an estate in Danzig.

ROSIE

Did I say Prussian? I meant Russian. Sometimes I stammer.

Another chorus woman escapes.
Willi begins to suspect something
is amiss but plays along.

WILLI

Oh, wonderful. My grandmother's family all hail from Russia. What was his name?

ROSIE

His name? Of course. He was... he'd be so embarrassed to hear me talk about him like this. He's a very private man.

WILLI

Then he should be fine because you haven't said anything about him.

ROSIE

(forcing a laugh)

Oh, ha ha. Yes, well, as I was saying... he was the fourth ...Baron of...

(speaking random syllables)

Tir... No... Va...

There is a knock on the door.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

(relieved)

Yes, please. Come in.

Renate enters the room. She sees Rosie and Willi and a chorus girl tucked behind a curtain. She quickly takes action.

RENATE

Sorry to disturb. We can't seem to find Frieda anywhere. Do you mind if I look in your closet?

WILLI

(amused)

Her closet?

RENATE

Yes. The silly girl comes in here sometimes to admire Rosie's costumes and-

(she looks behind the curtain)

Yes, here she is. As I suspected. Fast asleep.

The chorus woman plays along and collapses into Renate's arms. As she drags her out.

RENATE (CONT'D)

Forgive the intrusion. Gute nacht.

ROSIE

Home safe.

The door closes. Willi and Rosie look at each other for a moment. Willi suddenly bursts into laughter. Rosie soon joins him.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

They were helping me get ready. I don't know why I didn't just ask them to leave. I'm sorry.

WILLI

For what? That was almost as entertaining as your show.

ROSIE

(admitting)

Honestly, I have no experience at court.

WILLI

The Baron of Tirnova will be sad to hear it. Which is in Bulgaria, by the way. Not Russia.

ROSIE

Do I curtsy? Do I address you as "Your Highness?" "Herr Count?"

WILLI

That sounds like you want to see how many follicles I have.

ROSIE

Oh, no. You have a lovely head of hair.

(shocked at herself)

I have no idea why I said that. Apparently, I don't know how to act around royalty either.

WILLI

That makes us even, as I am not used to meeting with the royalty of the theatre.

ROSIE

You grossly overstate my standing. I sing songs about drinking beer. You're in line to be king.

WILLI

Technically, but a lot of bad things would have to happen for me to sit on a throne.

ROSIE

How many bad things?

WILLI

Two hundred thirty seven.

ROSIE

You've counted?

WILLI

We all do.

ROSIE

That's a lot of bad things.

WILLI

I work at the Auswärtiges Amt, the German Foreign Service. So I have a job like anyone. Please, just think of me as an ordinary person.

ROSIE

An ordinary person wouldn't have made it into my dressing room.

WILLI

Try to put it out of your mind.

ROSIE

I'll try, but as you can tell from my act, I am fairly unsophisticated.

WILLI

There's a regality to your act, despite its common appeal. You must have learned that from your parents.

ROSIE

I was raised in an orphanage after my parents died in a car crash.

WILLI

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

ROSIE

Don't concern yourself, Herr Count.

(giggles)

I can't help but think of your hairline.

WILLI

Just call me, Willi.

ROSIE

Okay. Willi. The orphanage is the only home I remember. I was there until Marlena Dietrich saved me.

WILLI

Miss Dietrich saved you?

ROSIE

She heard me singing in the children's choir.
She started me on my career. The only repayment
she'd accept is my singing "Lili Marlene" in my
act.

WILLI

Your difficult life has given you a wonderful
grounding and grace.

ROSIE

You can tell that much from one performance?

WILLI

I have a confession. I have been in your
audience on numerous occasions hoping to find
the courage meet you.

ROSIE

A Count, intimidated by a cabaret singer? I
find that very hard to believe. To meet a Count
- that is very intimidating for me, too.

WILLI

We have something in common after all.

(laughs)

I want to know you, Rosie Penn. I just want to
know you.

ROSIE

You may not like what you find. I am not
Prussian. I ...have a different background than
you. People might talk.

WILLI

Trifles like religion and class mean little to
me. It's the inside that makes the person.

ROSIE

So far, I like what I see inside of you.

WILLI

Why don't we go some place for a glass of wine?
A little alcohol may reveal more of my insides.

ROSIE

Well, when you put it that way, it sounds a
little disturbing. I'll be ready in a moment.

While Rosie flits behind a screen
to change, she begins to sing as
Willi sings on the other side of
the partition.

SONG - "ROSIE AND WILLI"

ROSIE (CONT'D)
HE WANTS ME TO CALL HIM WILLI
YES, WILLI, WILLI, WILLI, I REPEAT

WILLI
A ROSIE IS A ROSIE IS A ROSIE
BY ANY OTHER NAME SHE'S STILL BE AS SWEET.

ROSIE
HE MAY BE NOBILITY
AND YET HE HAS NO CONCEIT

WILLI
SHE'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF
SHE WOULD MAKE MY LIFE COMPLETE

ROSIE AND WILLI
COULD S/HE FALL IN LOVE WITH ME
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE
AM I STANDING ON THE BRINK?
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO THINK.

ROSIE
WELL, I'M READY

WILLI
YOU LOOK GREAT

ROSIE
THANK YOU, WILLI

WILLI
BE MY DATE

ROSIE AND WILLI
COME ON, LET'S GO GET A DRINK.

Willi offers her his arm, which
she takes, and, when they finish
the duet, they leave the stage.

LIGHTS OUT.

WILLI'S OFFICE - DAY - JULY 32

Willi is working at his desk while
his assistant HELGA enters.

HELGA
Good afternoon, Herr Count.
(Willi starts to chuckle)
You are in a good mood.

WILLI
Yes, I certainly am. What do you have for me?

HELGA

First, you have an invitation to a luncheon with President Hindenburg. You have already replied yes. There is no way of getting out of it. I already asked. It's on your revised schedule. Bring me back a piece of cheesecake. I've heard it's delicious. Second, there is a Belgian theatre troupe that ran into some unexpected red tape trying to travel to Berlin. The cultural attache has promised you tickets to the performance if you expedite the travel documents. Thank you in advance for giving me two of those tickets. Third, the head of the AA, otherwise known as your boss, has requested your availability for a departmental retreat. Before you say you are too busy, I have circled three weekends that are possible. It's at his chalet in Switzerland. Bring back chocolates. Fourth, your sister the Countess is here. She bribed me with a lovely bouquet for my desk so I have carved out fifteen minutes for her. Straighten your tie. I'll go show her in.

WILLI

I will try not to talk so much next time.

HELGA

It seems to work best.

Helga goes to the door and opens it.

HELGA (CONT'D)

Countess, the Count will see you now.

MARLENE, proper and put together, steps into the office.

MARLENA

Thank you, Helga. Has that boyfriend of yours proposed yet?

HELGA

It's on his schedule for next month.

Helga exits.

MARLENA

I like her. She's very efficient. Frightening, but efficient.

WILLI

Imagine what she'd be like if she didn't like me.

MARLENA

She likes you?

WILLI

Rumor has it.

MARLENA

Well, you asked me here for a reason. Will you tell me what your news is, or must I wrestle it out of you like when we were children?

WILLI

I always won.

MARLENA

You would cry to mother until she made me let you win. Enough. What is the news?

WILLI

I've met the most beautiful woman in the world.

MARLENA

You tell me of a new woman almost every month.

WILLI

This woman is the one.

MARLENA

I've heard this before as well.

WILLI

She's not like the others. She is wonderful.

MARLENA

I am sure she is wonderful. So is she after your wonderful title or your wonderful money?

WILLI

I sought her out. She is not petty like that. She is Rosie Penn, the beloved cabaret singer.

MARLENA

Another starlet from the theatre. Is this one at least of age?

WILLI

Don't mock me. They have always been of age.

MARLENA

Last year, it was the assistant Ambassador from Denmark. She was the one. The year before it was the member of Parliament. You do have a taste for accomplished women. And they seem to have the one common thread. You tire of them after capturing their hearts.

WILLI

That was before. Let me tell you about Rosie.

MARLENA

We know all about her. Friedrich and I have seen her perform. She's a beautiful woman with a wonderful voice and stage presence. Although Friedrich is clueless about such things, I suspect that she might be a Jew.

WILLI

Her religion is not important to me.

MARLENA

It should be.

WILLI

I never took you for a bigot.

MARLENA

Don't be uncouth, Willi. You know me better than that. You are Count Hans Wilhelm von Kleister-Graf, the ranking member of a very important family. You certainly can't anticipate a marriage. Especially in the current climate.

WILLI

Hitler lost the election. And all of the nationalist bigots that supported him will crawl back under their rocks. Besides, I have no plans for children. Your children are next in line for our family title.

MARLENA

Please, Willi, my dear brother. Don't talk nonsense. You are the Count. You have a responsibility to the family that I do not.

WILLI

At any rate, it isn't a responsibility I'm seeing to any time soon. So, when can I bring her to meet the family?

MARLENA

I'll talk to Friedrich. I'm sure I can coax an invitation for a famous singer out of him.

BLACKOUT.

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - EARLY EVENING AUGUST 1932

Rosie is dressed and busily applying make up as Renate lounges in a chair nearby.

RENATE

And why are you not getting ready at home?

ROSIE

All my make up is here.

RENATE

You don't have make up at home.

ROSIE

Not my good make up.

RENATE

Seems like an awful lot of trouble for someone who already likes you. You wouldn't need all that paint for me.

ROSIE

You're sweet. I'm not putting it on for him. I'm having dinner at his sister's tonight.

RENATE

My goodness. The count is trotting out his starlet in front of his family.

ROSIE

Thank you for comparing me to a horse.

RENATE

A horse? Never. A show pony, maybe, but never a horse.

ROSIE

Save your jokes for the stage.

RENATE

Schatz, we always tease each other about our love life. You were merciless about the French girl I dated. Granted, she was supremely stupid, but I rarely let her talk.

ROSIE

I'm just nervous. I want them to like me.

RENATE

Who? His self-absorbed, aristocratic, elitist ruling class family? You've seen them in the club. Do they truly like anyone?

ROSIE

Renate. Stop it. Willi isn't like that so why would they be?

RENATE

(taken aback)

I'm sorry.

(MORE)

RENATE (CONT'D)

(softening)

You really like this one, don't you?

ROSIE

No. I think I love him.

RENATE

So soon? Well, that's unexpected.

ROSIE

I told myself the same thing. Oh, I know it can never work out because... I'm being foolish.

RENATE

Foolishness is the engine of love. Without fools, the species would have died out years ago.

ROSIE

What am I going to do?

RENATE

If love is for fools and you want them to love you, you have to make them feel foolish.

ROSIE

Be serious.

RENATE

No. Be ridiculous. Teach them your beer drinking song.

ROSIE

What? His family comes from royalty.

Renate starts singing FILL MY
STEIN WITH BEER slowly.

SONG - "FILL OUR STEIN WITH BEER"

RENATE

WHO THE HELL IS ROSIE?
WE KNOW HER AS A SINGER

ROSIE

I can't.

RENATE

Yes you can.
AND EVEN WITHOUT A BEER
EVERY NOTE IS CLEAR

ROSIE

What will they think?

RENATE

Who cares?
SHE SINGS TO EACH OF US
SHE SINGS WITH ALL HER HEART

Renate looks at Rosie expectantly.
Rosie relents and joins in.

ROSIE

SHE HITS EVERY NOTE
WITH EACH STEIN WE TOTE

RENATE

Wonderbar.

BOTH

EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER

They laugh and dance as the scene
transforms around them into:

MARLENA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Willi, Marlena, FRIEDRICH,
Marlena's husband, JACOB, a young
teenager, eager to please, JANINE,
quiet and thoughtful, and her twin
KURT, exuberant and a little wild,
surround her enter and help
transform the scene. They pick up
and sing the song as Renate exits.

ALL

AS ROSIE SINGS TO US
WE RAISE OUR STEIN UP HIGH
THE BEER IS ALWAYS BEST
AT OCTOBERFEST
AND THERE IS MORE TO DRINK
WHENEVER STEINS ARE DRY
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER

EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
ONE MORE STEIN OF BEER
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER

ONE MORE STEIN OF BEER

LET'S RAISE OUR STEINS AGAIN
TO TOAST OUR TIME TOGETHER
SO, WE CAN GIVE A HOOT
TO THE GOOD TIMES, A SALUTE
WE'RE READY TO ENJOY
LET'S ALL JOIN IN AND SING
EACH SHOUT, EACH YELL, EACH CALL
IN THE SEASON OF THE FALL

They all join together, swinging
their mugs to the music, as they
sing the final chorus.

EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER
EINS, ZWEI, DREI, VIER
MY EMPTY STEIN IS CLEAR
BARMAID, COME OVER HERE AND
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER

BARMAID, COME OVER HERE AND
FILL MY STEIN WITH BEER

Laughing, everyone moves to sit,
with the three youngest pushing
each other to get the best chairs.

WILLI

What a delightful song. I love it more each
time I hear it.

ROSIE

I'll be introducing this song at Oktoberfest.

FRIEDRICH

Maybe, we should all go to Munich this year.

MARLENA

We could stay at the same hotel where we
honeymooned.

FRIEDRICH

You are such a romantic.

MARLENA

And you are such a husband.

KURT

They flirt like teenagers. With arthritis.

MARLENA

You always have to make a joke, Kurt. You get
that from your uncle, Willi.

WILLI

I have trained him well.

ROSIE

You all have so much fun together. Thanks for letting me be a part of it.

MARLENA

Our pleasure.

ROSIE

And, the dinner was so delicious. I wish I could cook like that.

KURT

She wishes she could too.

WILLI

You rascal. You beat me to it.

MARLENA

I just tell our cook what should be included and it comes to the table. But thank you for the sentiment.

FRIEDRICH

We are so fortunate to have Ludmilla. Without her, we might starve.

ROSIE

I am not very handy in the kitchen myself. Luckily, I work in a place that serves food.

MARLENA

We have much more in common than we might have thought. Successful women who cannot cook.

WILLI

I am so pleased that you two are getting along.

FRIEDRICH

To find a remarkable performer such as Miss Penn to be so personable is unexpected. It's no wonder she has stolen your heart, Willi.

WILLI

She has no need to steal it. I give my heart gladly. It is full of happiness.

ROSIE

You bring me happiness as well.

KURT

Now you are the ones that sound like teenagers. I left that nonsense behind years ago.

FRIEDRICH

Listen how he speaks with such disdain of love.

WILLI

At the ripe old age of 20.

KURT

I know all I care to about love. Jacob, on the other hand, is quickly becoming an expert, if rumors are to be believed.

JACOB

Leave me out of this. I'm just a child. Why haven't you included Janine in this discussion?

KURT

There is no need to kiss and tell when you've never had a kiss to tell about.

JANINE

As your twin, I have vaults of secrets I could share about you. Like the time, in Stuttgart, -

KURT

Let's talk about something else.

JANINE

Yes, let's. Perhaps the time that Kurt and the Richter sisters went swimming in Bern without -

KURT

I surrender. Instead, how about we talk about Rosie's exciting life in the cabaret?

JANINE

A much better idea.

ROSIE

I felt that's all I talked about at dinner.

MARLENA

It's such a fascinating life. So different than delivering babies.

ROSIE

But just as exciting, I'm sure.

FRIEDRICH

You sing Lili Marlene better than Dietrich, in my opinion. I understand, - and don't let it out, as it is not public - that it may become the official song of the Republic.

ROSIE

I have been asked to record it for the radio stations to play when each hour is over. I am a little nervous about it.

WILLI

I'm sure there will be specialists there to make your recording a pleasant experience. If not, they will hear from me.

ROSIE

I hate to leave, but I have a rehearsal at the club tonight.

MARLENA

At this hour? When do you sleep?

WILLI

I'm curious about that, too.

ROSIE

Plenty of time to sleep when I'm dead. Good night everyone.

They all exchange good nights.

WILLI

I will walk you to the theatre.

They exit as the lights change for the next scene.

BOULEVARD - MOMENTS LATER - CONTINUOUS

Willi and Rosie are walking on the street under the linden trees.

ROSIE

I am so glad to have met your sister and her family. When you told me about your talk with the Countess, I was worried.

WILLI

I know Marlena. The concerns she speaks of are usually those of high society in her social circle. Ultimately, she makes up her own mind. I love her for it.

ROSIE

I hope you are right. If I came between you and your sister, I could not live with myself.

WILLI

Meeting my sister and her family was just one more step on our way to what I hope is a long relationship.

ROSIE

Let's just enjoy each other while we can.

WILLI

I will happily enjoy this walk with you. Are you really going to the club to rehearse?

ROSIE

Not really. I was just a little uncomfortable with all the praise. Plus, government getting into the arts is never really a good idea.

WILLI

Friedrich has always believed in the power of government. He sees everything as just another political wheel that needs greasing.

ROSIE

I tried to get out of this recording. I recommended many other singers, including Marlene herself.

WILLI

She is not better than you, my love.

ROSIE

But she is not a ...person of my persuasion.

WILLI

You don't have to dance around it when we are alone. I know that you are -

ROSIE

Hush. There are ears everywhere. If the government finds out, that will be the end of this recording. And probably my career.

WILLI

You needn't worry. With Hitler's defeat in the last election, things will get better in this country. Trust me.

BLACK OUT

SCHNELLES KATZEN-KABARETT - NIGHT - MONTAGE

Renate comes downstage in a spot
and sings to the audience:

SONG - "SEASONS"

RENATE

THERE IS A SEASON FOR ACTION
THERE IS A SEASON FOR PLEASURE
THERE IS A SEASON FOR MUSIC
THERE IS A SEASON FOR ART

LIFE'S EVER CHANGING
AND REARRANGING
THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON
FOR A NEW SEASON
THE WORLD IS SMALL
NOT BIG AT ALL
WE WALK THROUGH THE DOOR
IT CHANGES ONCE MORE

A CABARET GIRL (FEMALE SWING) and
her BOYFRIEND (MALE SWING) take
the stage as if they are
mechanical figures from a cuckoo
clock.

MAN

Hey, Liebling.

WOMAN

Yes, Schnucki?

MAN

You know in the Federal election this last
summer, no single party won enough seats to
form a government.

WOMAN

Is that so?

MAN

Yes. That means between the Communists, The
Social Democrats and the National Socialists,
two of them are going to have to form a
coalition.

WOMAN

What's the difference between a Social Democrat
and a National Socialist?

MAN

The difference is quite plain. How can you NOT
SEE?

They chuckle as the song begins
again. They exit.

RENATE

THERE IS A SEASON TO BE HURT
THERE IS A SEASON FOR A FLIRT
THERE IS A SEASON FOR FAM'LY
THERE IS A SEASON FOR WORK

The cabaret girls enter and
perform as clock characters.

CABARET #1

Hello. I am President Paul von Hindenburg.

CABARET #2

Hello, Herr President. You seem sad.

CABARET #1

I am. It's November and we still don't have a government. I'm negotiating to form a coalition with the head of the National Socialist party, Adolph Hitler.

CABARET #2

How are the negotiations going?

CABARET #1

Poorly. We can't seem to get past the greeting. Every time I see him, I say "Hi, Hitler," and he holds up his hand like this to stop me.

She punctuates it by doing a Nazi salute. They exit. The song continues.

RENATE

THERE IS A SEASON I CAN REST
THERE IS A SEASON TO BE BEST
THERE IS A SEASON TO BE SAD
THERE IS A SEASON TO BE GLAD

Renate and Rosie come forward.

ROSIE

Well, it's been a rough winter since the beginning of the year.

RENATE

How so?

The clock characters interrupt.

WOMAN

After the President appointed Hitler our new chancellor, he set the Reichstag on fire.

ROSIE

Well, he is cold blooded.

MAN

He blamed it on the communists and eliminated them from the government.

RENATE

Talk about cutting red tape.

CABARET #1

He created the VOLKSGERICHT, a people's court
which will convict people who speak out against
Hitler's people.

ROSIE

People who hate people are the loneliest people
in the world.

CABARET #2

And they are getting sent to a new camp that
was built at Dachau, near Munich.

RENATE

(somberly)

Wait a minute. That's not funny.

ROSIE

(seriously)

No. No it's not.

Rosie and Renate finish the song.

RENATE

LIFE'S EVER CHANGING
AND REARRANGING
THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON
FOR EACH NEW SEASON
THE WORLD IS SMALL
NOT BIG AT ALL
WE WALK THROUGH THE DOOR
IT CHANGES ONCE MORE

ROSIE

LIFE IS
CHANGING
CAN'T TELL
WHY
SUCH A
SMALL WORLD
AND THEN
IT CHANGES ONCE MORE

RENATE

WE WALK THROUGH THE DOOR
IT CHANGES ONCE MORE

TRANSITION TO:

STREET - DAY - MARCH 1933

Janine and Kurt, walking on a
street, on their way to attend a
rally for the Social Democrats.

JANINE

You know, I am not political. Why are you
dragging me to this.

KURT

I am trying to get everyone I know involved.
Uncle Willi thinks I should stay away from the
rallies for awhile, but we all need greater
understanding of the problems we are facing in
Germany. You need to be informed.

JANINE

I'm studying to become a doctor. I can better help Germany in the hospital.

KURT

Everyone must get the message. The National Socialists are going to destroy Germany. I wish I could get Father to come, but his position would be threatened. He thinks my being here will put him in hot water.

JANINE

You're so sure it won't?

KURT

I go by Dieter here. Nobody knows who I am. But, each of us must act now, or the opportunity will pass.

JANINE

President Hindenberg is our representative. He will watch out for us.

KURT

When Hindenberg appointed Hitler Chancellor, that ended his say in anything. The government is powerless to stop him. That's what I plan to tell the crowd.

JANINE

You're not planning to speak, are you?

KURT

It will be my time at the next rally. Someone in this family needs to speak out. Uncle Willi can't be seen at this type of event. It is the same with Father. Someone in this family must speak out against Hitler.

JANINE

This isn't a good idea. We should go home.

KURT

Let's just go and hear what they have to say. We will just listen. I promise.

BLACK OUT

WILLI'S OFFICE - DAYS LATER - MARCH 33

Willi is at his desk, when his new ASSISTANT enters with a folder.

ASSISTANT

Sir, this file must be approved by you.

WILLI

My desk is already stacked with files that only
I can review.

ASSISTANT

This is for a scientist named Albert Einstein.

WILLI

(appearing annoyed)

I was alerted this file may be coming. Put it
on the pile with the others.

He does so and stands nearby,
trying to snoop without looking
like that's what he is doing.

WILLI (CONT'D)

I will review it when I have a moment.

ASSISTANT

Yes sir.

WILLI

It will be awhile.

ASSISTANT

I don't mind, sir.

The assistant continues to snoop.
Willi picks up his phone and
dials. A phone rings off stage.

WILLI

I think I hear your phone ringing.

The assistant suddenly panics and
leaves. Once he is gone, Willi
attitude changes and he digs into
the file in earnest.

WILLI (CONT'D)

(reading)

Albert. How will Germany survive without you?

SONG - "HOW CAN GERMANY SURVIVE"

WILLI (CONT'D)

HOW CAN GERMANY SURVIVE
WITH A GOVERNMENT OF FOOLS?
THEY THINK THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO
BUT THEY ARE ACTING JUST LIKE GHOULS.
THESE RULES THEY PUT INTO EFFECT
WILL PUSH OUR GREAT MINDS TO LEAVE.
WHERE WILL OUR CULTURE BE
WHEN IT RUNS AWAY THRU THE SIEVE?

I MUST GET THESE PEOPLE OUT
OUR CULTURAL ELITE
THEY MUST KNOW WHAT IS COMING
AND NOT REMAIN ASLEEP
I MUST DO MY DUTY
TO GET THESE PEOPLE FREE
I MUST PROCESS THEIR PAPERS
SO EACH OF THEM CAN FLEE.

CAN I DO MY JOB?
CAN I GET THEM OUT?
WILL I BE DISCOVERED
AND SHOT LIKE A LOUT?
I MUST TAKE THE RISK
I MUST ACT ALONE
I'LL ISSUE THEIR PASSPORTS
TURN OVER EV'RY STONE

NOW MY MISSION IS CLEAR
THERE'S NO QUESTION OR DOUBT
THEY MUST KNOW WHAT IS COMING
AND I MUST GET THESE PEOPLE OUT.

WILLI (CONT'D)

Herr Einstein, I see your file is in order.
Congratulations, you're going to America.
Goodbye, Albert. I'm sure you won't return.

He waives his arm in farewell, and
then he stamps in numerous places
on the file documents.

The phone rings. Willi answers.

WILLI (CONT'D)

Ja.

(pause)

My sister is here? Please, show her in.

Assistant opens the door to
Willi's office, so Marlena can
enter. As she comes into the room,
Willi rises to greet her.

WILLI (CONT'D)

To what do I owe this great pleasure?

(noticing)

That will be all. I'll ring you when I have
finished the files.

ASSISTANT

Very good, sir.

He exits.

MARLENA

What happened to Helga?

WILLI

They wanted someone here who could give reports on me to my superiors. Luckily, this one is not very bright. What brings you here? You must be so busy delivering babies.

MARLENA

Delivering babies is sort of the subject.

WILLI

I know some of us in the AA can be a little infantile, but-

MARLENA

Stop with the jokes and listen. I've delivered babies in Berlin for over 25 years. Now, some of them are having babies of their own and they're in trouble.

WILLI

How I can help? Medical oversight is not in my purview.

MARLENA

No, but emigrations are. You could expedite visas so my patients can leave Germany.

WILLI

Marlena, I can't-

MARLENA

I won't just let them die.

WILLI

How many people are we talking about?

MARLENA

Here's a list.

She hands him a piece of paper.
He scans it quickly.

WILLI

I can issue passports to almost anyone, but I can't do this many at once. It'll raise suspicion.

MARLENA

I know you have been working to issue passports to the elite of our culture. Scientists, musicians, writers, performers.

WILLI

Who told you that? I have told no one.

MARLENA

Many of these people visited our home. When I hear they have been sighted in other countries, I'm clever enough to ascertain how they got there and wise enough to tell no one. By the way, is Herr Einstein going to get his visa?

(Willi is stunned)

How do you think his friends knew to get the file to your office?

Willi lifts the Einstein file from his desk, waving it at Marlena.

WILLI

I have his file on my desk. Our greatest scientist, perhaps of all time. There are so many more. The AA is more than a bit slow, even after I expedite a file. And I can't trust my assistant, so I have to do everything. You know, when the foreign minister was asked: "How many work at the AA?" He replied: "about half".

MARLENA

This is very important to me. Will you help?

WILLI

What does your husband think about this?

MARLENA

I can't tell him. I hate keeping secrets from him, but I don't know what he would do.

WILLI

Issuing a few passports a month to my special Germans won't raise too many eyebrows. But, to a whole group at once? It is a terrible risk.

MARLENA

These people are just as important to the future of Germany as yours are.

SONG - "MOTHERS AND BABIES"

MARLENA (CONT'D)

MY PATIENTS ARE IN NEED OF YOUR HELP, MY BROTHER.
I'VE DELIVERED EACH BABY AND CARED FOR EACH MOTHER
THESE PEOPLE ARE AT RISK, THEY CAN BE TAKEN AWAY
AS A JEW, OR WORSE, TOMORROW, OR EVEN TODAY

YOU ALONE CAN HELP
SO HAVE MERCY. I PRAY YOU
WILL DO ALL YOU CAN
ALTHOUGH THEY CANNOT PAY YOU.

NOW IS THE TIME
FOR YOU TO BE THEIR SAVIOR
YOU'LL NOT REGRET YOUR EFFORTS
THEY'LL BE GRATEFUL FOR THIS FAVOR

THESE MOTHERS AND BABIES ARE PEOPLE I SERVE
WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THEM, THEY SURELY DON'T DESERVE.
I DO ALL I CAN TO CARE FOR THEM EACH DAY
BUT I CAN'T HELP THEM ONCE THEY ARE TAKEN AWAY

THESE MOTHERS AND BABIES, THEIR STRESS YOU MUST RELIEVE
MY PATIENTS NEED TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE
SO, PASSPORTS FOR THEM IS MY REQUEST TODAY
IF YOU CAN ISSUE THEM, THEY CAN BE ON THEIR WAY.

LIGHTS FADE.

CABARET - LATER THAT EVENING - MARCH 33

Rosie is performing at the
cabaret. Willi is in the audience.

ROSIE

What a night it's been. However, I have one
last job for you. You all know the famous song,
"At The North Sea Coast." You don't? Well, then
I must teach it to you. When I sing this song,
and we get to the word "Coast", we all clap
four times. Let us practice. Everyone now,
let's try that:

Rosie then speaks the words,
getting the audience to clap each
time she speaks the word "coast."
As she tells the story, each time
she gets to the song it goes
faster and faster.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

ON THE NORTH SEA COAST (4 CLAPS)
AT THE BEACH
WHERE THE FISH ARE IN THE WATER
AND RARELY ASHORE.

(speaking normally)

That was terrible, which reminds me of the two
guys, Klaus and Klaus, who were visiting a
health resort in Cuxhaven. Klaus said to Klaus,
"Since we're on the North Sea Coast, we should
sing the song." To which Klaus says, "As long
as we can do the claps." So they sing the song.
"ON THE NORTH SEA COAST."

(encourages the audience to clap)

Well, they clap so vigorously that they slap an
old lady walking along the street. So the angry
citizens chase Klaus and Klaus out of the city.

(MORE)

ROSIE (CONT'D)

A short while later, Klaus and Klaus find themselves walking along a cliff. And Klaus says to Klaus, "I'm bored." To which Klaus says, "Well, why don't we sing The North Sea Coast?" To which Klaus says, "As long as we can do the claps." So Klaus starts sings, "ON THE NORTH SEA COAST."

(encourages audience to clap)

Well the two Klauses clap so vigorously that they propel themselves off of the cliff. Luckily, they grab onto a branch sticking out from the side of the rock face. With the two of them hanging there, there is no way it can support both their weights for very long. "What should we do?" asks Klaus. "Since we're hanging over the North Sea Coast, if we sing the song, maybe it will get someone's attention," says the other Klaus. And then Klaus says, "As long as we can do the claps" "On the north sea coast clap, clap... AIEEEEEEE."

She waits out the laughter.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

And now you're all dead, so I don't have to teach you the rest of the song. You have been a wonderful audience. Come and see us again. Auf Wiedersehen.

She curtsies to the crowd. She goes to her dressing room.

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - CONTINUOUS MARCH 33

Rosie enters her dressing room, quickly followed by Willi.

WILLI

That is such a terrible joke.

ROSIE

You told it to me.

WILLI

So I know how bad it is. What of your promise to Ms. Dietrich about singing Lili Marlene?

ROSIE

I can't sing it now without getting sad. It's better if I can just make a joke.

WILLI

It should always end your performance. If for no other reason, so word doesn't get back to people who think you should be singing it.

ROSIE

So, you're an expert on Cabaret as well?

WILLI

(slyly)

After dating me for seven months, don't you know that I'm an expert in everything?

ROSIE

And you're humble too!

WILLI

Through the strength of character and my personality, I have been able to overcome it.

Rosie finally seems to notice that Willli is not his normal self.

ROSIE

I can tell a better joke if it depresses you that much.

He chuckles a little.

WILLI

I'm just tired from my trip.

ROSIE

Something else is bothering you. Tell me.

WILLI

I don't know if I can.

ROSIE

You can tell me anything.

WILLI

It isn't safe to talk here. This place is full of gossips.

ROSIE

It will take them a few minutes to clean the club. Please. Talk.

WILLI

You know that I take trips all over the country, but you don't know why. I have been persuading our best and brightest to leave.

ROSIE

I see.

WILLI

I'm processing the passports for scientists, intellectuals, even movie makers.

ROSIE

Why these people in particular?

WILLI

Our German culture is at stake. I am going to get them out of Germany until the AA gets wise.

SONG - "TIME TO FEAR"

WILLI (CONT'D)

I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW MUCH I AM CONCERNED.
THERE ARE MANY REPORTS OF PEOPLE BEING BURNED.
IN THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES
IN THE CAMPS OF DESPAIR
MY SOURCES TELL ME WHAT IS HAPPENING, HAPPENING HERE.

WILLI (CONT'D)

I have heard some rumors that my cousin the Field Marshal couldn't verify. So I chose to verify it myself.

ROSIE

How did you manage that? You aren't a member of Hitler's party.

WILLI

If you buy a few drinks, tell a few jokes, and drop a few words they like to hear, underlings will let many things slip. My sources are telling me the truth about Dachau and who is being sent there.

THEY'LL DESTROY OUR CULTURE
FOR THAT IS THEIR GOAL:
TO ANNIHILATE OUR PEOPLE
AND BURY OUR SOUL
A RIVER OF DEATH THRU OUR CITIES WILL FLOW
THE TIDE THAT IS COMING BRINGS DARKNESS AND WOE.

WILLI (CONT'D)

The rumors about the Reichstag Fire are true.

ROSIE

It was set by Hitler? That's crazy.

WILLI

Hitler is crazy. His followers can and will do anything for him.

ROSIE

This isn't German. We don't behave like that. Decent people won't stand for this.

WILLI

Decent people are the first to go to the camp.

LET MY WORDS BE A WARNING
PLEASE TAKE THEM TO HEART
WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE
AND NOW'S THE TIME TO START
WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER
WE MUST ALL DO OUR BEST
TO BE READY TO LEAVE
THERE IS NO TIME TO REST.

ROSIE

I don't see any of this in the newspapers.

WILLI

I have hundreds of memos which tell of this and worse. We are told to deny and provide counter information not only abroad, but also to our own population. Things can only become worse.

I URGE YOU, MY DEAREST,
DO NOT DOUBT WHAT I SAY
YOU CANNOT IMAGINE
THE HORROR COMING OUR WAY
MY TRUSTWORTHY SOURCES
TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE
WE MUST BE EVER SO MINDFUL
FOR THIS IS A TIME TO FEAR

LIGHTS FADE.

LIVING ROOM - EVENING - MAY, 1933

In Marlena's living room, Janine, Kurt, Willi, Jacob and the Docs converse. Kurt and Willi laugh at the jokes they just told.

MARLENA

Kurt, I don't know if I am more upset with the risks you are taking with this family's reputation, or those jokes.

KURT

When they come for us, our reputation won't keep them from breaking down our doors.

WILLI

The jokes won't help either.

FRIEDRICH

They wouldn't dare. That's an outrageous claim.

KURT

I'm sorry the truth angers you so.

WILLI

We Germans do anger easily. What do you call a pissed off German? A Sauerkraut.

FRIEDRICH

These leaders you make light of are frequent guests in our home. What will they think?

WILLI

Worrying about your station is making you turn a blind eye to what Hitler is doing.

KURT

And you know what they call a blind German? A Not See.

They laugh uproariously at their jokes. Friedrich is not amused.

FRIEDRICH

You will not insult the government that has put a roof over every head in this house.

WILLI

This government isn't the one you know. They are intimidating people. Killing people.

JANINE

That is treason to say such things, Uncle.

KURT

It's not treason if we win.

JANINE

You want to overthrow the government?

MARLENA

No one is saying that. Right, Kurt?

KURT

Well, now that you mention it -

WILLI

Kurt, as a rising leader of the Social Democrats, you are in danger as well.

FRIEDRICH

Nonsense. He's a member of an important family.

MARLENA

And heir to your Countship, Willi. No one would touch our son.

WILLI

Titles don't carry much sway any longer.

WILLI

Jokes are one thing, Kurt. Insulting our leaders could mark you as a dissident. It may be time to get you out of the country.

FRIEDRICH

My son is not going anywhere.

KURT

At last, we agree on something. What risk is there in joking about our leaders? You know how Germans tie their shoes? With little knotsies.

I MUST CONTINUE MY WORK
FOR OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEAL
I'LL STAND FOR WHAT IS TRUE
AND ENDURE WHAT RISK IS REAL
WHEN I CAN SEE THE WRONGS
AND HAVE THE POW'R TO SET IT RIGHT
I CAN'T STAY INDOORS
AND GIVE UP THE FIGHT

VERSE

WILLI

You know, there are spies at these rallies that would report you.

JANINE

There were spies at the rally you took me to? You should have told me.

KURT

He's exaggerating to make a point.

WILLI

We don't live in a forgiving time. Remember what the German kid said when he pushed his brother off a cliff? "Look, mother, no Hans!"

FRIEDRICH

You two. Stop with these jokes.

KURT

Stop? We're taking our act on the road.

FRIEDRICH

Yes. On the road to Dachau.

WILLI

So. You *have* heard about the camp in Bavaria.

FRIEDRICH

No. I was... making a bad joke. Like you. You see? It's not funny to ridicule the government.

KURT

What we have is not a government.

JANINE

Kurt, what is someone heard you? Of course we have a government.

KURT

No, we don't. It is one twisted, little man telling us what we can and cannot do. And I, for one, am not going to sit by and do nothing.

KURT (CONT'D)

I WILL GO TO MY MEETING TONIGHT VERSE
AND I WILL SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT
IT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE
SO, I MUST LEAVE NOW, I CAN'T BE LATE

STANDING UP IS HARD TO DO CHORUS
I GRANT YOU THAT AND MORE
BUT IF I DON'T DO IT NOW
THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING TO STAND UP FOR

WILLI

He's not wrong Friedrich. This is not the government you have known.

FRIEDRICH

Wilhelm, you just said you like Hindenburg. And you agree with Kurt about the government. You can't play both sides like that.

KURT

I agree with Father. It's not like you to play the middle.

JANINE

Kurt, you can like someone and not approve of everything they do. You should be know that.

WILLI

I respect Hindenburg, but he made a bad choice giving power to Hitler, and we are all going to pay the price for it.

MARLENA

Willi, you are well-intentioned, but you are motivated by fear. Perhaps partly because of your relationship with Rosie.

WILLI

How can you say that when you have asked me to-

MARLENA

(stopping him)

I have asked you to keep a respectful tone towards my house and my husband.

WILLI

Don't be one of those non-thinking Germans.

KURT

The difference between a German and a shopping trolley is the trolley has a mind of its own.

FRIEDRICH

That is enough, Kurt.

MARLENA

You have gone too far.

KURT (CONT'D)

As much as I'd love to argue with you, I am going where my words won't fall on deaf ears. There's a rally tonight, here in Berlin.

All three adults protest this announcement.

KURT (CONT'D)

I'll be fine. If you'll excuse me, I left my speech in my room.

Kurt exits.

FRIEDRICH

My son is a fool. And it is your fault, Wilhelm. We hoped you could help us tame him. Instead, you have stirred his dissident nature.

WILLI

I was just trying to-

FRIEDRICH

You weren't trying hard enough.

WILLI

I am only his uncle. Not his father.

FRIEDRICH

(angry pause)

I trust you can see yourself out. Please do so.

MARLENA

Don't be rude. He's my brother. And a Count.

FRIEDRICH

Very well, "Countess." *You* throw him out.

Friedrich exits. Willi and Marlena follow him out.

Kurt comes back into the room.

KURT

Tell them I'll be home late.
(he starts to leave but stops)
Janine, you have had little to say tonight.

JANINE

What could I say that hasn't already been said?
You are being head strong, young and reckless.

SONG - "A HINT OF DANGER"

JANINE (CONT'D)

THERE IS A HINT OF DANGER
THOUGH YOU TREAT IT WITH SCORN
YOU CAN'T BE IN DENIAL
AS UNCLE WILLI WARNED
HE KNOWS FROM HIS SOURCES
THAT TROUBLE IS HERE
HOW CAN YOU IGNORE
THE THREATS THAT LIE SO NEAR?

KURT

I know they are concerned about me.
Fortunately, I have a partner these days. (or
Luckily, I have my speech all prepared.)

Kurt shows his gun in the belt on
his back. Janine reacts.

JANINE

Hindenburg has made owning a gun illegal.

KURT

If the government won't protect me from the
Nazis, I'll protect myself.

JANINE

YOU LEAVE US TO WORRY
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TONIGHT?
YOUR SAFETY IS AT RISK
PLEASE, MY KURT, STAY IN THE LIGHT
OUR WORRY WON'T HELP
IT PROVIDES NO SUPPORT
IN OUR HOUSE, WE ARE SAFE
LIKE SOLDIERS IN A FORT

Please, don't leave this house with that
weapon.

KURT

I'm not a child. I make my own decisions.

JANINE

But Kurt-

KURT

Maybe you should come tonight and see -

JANINE

We have been to enough rallies. I need you more than Germany does. Please, don't go.

KURT

I'll be fine. Haven't you heard? I'm untouchable.

Kurt leaves.

Janine goes to the window to watch Kurt depart.

JANINE

HOW CAN WE SAVE HIM
FROM WHAT LIES AHEAD?
WHY MUST HE BE THE LEADER?
WHY NOT A QUIET VOICE INSTEAD?
NOW OFF HE GOES TO SPEAK
PROVOKING PEOPLE TO FIGHT
BUT, I FEAR HIS EMPTY RETURN
MY HEART IS HEAVY TONIGHT

BE SAFE, MY BROTHER
RETURN TO US YOU MUST
BUT THIS HINT OF DANGER
CAN TURN IRON INTO RUST

LIGHTS DIM. LIGHTS UP ON:

STREET - THAT SAME NIGHT - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Kurt steps into the street.

KURT

They don't understand. Not even Willi. If we don't fix it, no one will.

SONG - "TIME TO STAND UP" REPRISE

KURT (CONT'D)

STANDING UP IS HARD TO DO
I GRANT YOU THAT AND MORE
BUT IF I DON'T DO IT NOW-

Kurt is interrupted by a Brownshirt entering the street.

BROWNSHIRT

Well, well. If it isn't the young trouble maker, Dieter. Or would you prefer I use your real name? Kurt Kellsburg.

Kurt draws his gun but the
Brownshirt is on top of him before
he can aim it. The two struggle
with the weapon until:

BLACKOUT.
SFX. GUN SHOT

CABARET - THAT SAME NIGHT - INTERCUT - MAY 1933

This setting will be revealed such
that Rosie sings between the next
few difficult scenes. Renate
stands in the spotlight.

RENATE

Vielen Danke, mein damen und herren. Thank you
so much for braving the jungle that is Berlin
to come to this den of iniquity. Without
further ado, here is the woman whose voice can
make you forget almost anything. Rosie Penn.

Rosie enters the spotlight as
Renate leaves it. Without a word
she starts singing.

SONG - "A WALK IN THE PARK"

ROSIE

THE LAMPS GLOW IN THE NIGHT VERSE
ON OUR WALK THROUGH THE PARK
THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO FEAR
THERE'S NO SHADOWS IN THE LIGHT
WE SHOULD FOLLOW OUR HEART
AS WE STROLL ARM IN ARM
THERE'S SO MUCH BEAUTY IN THE WELL
ILLUMINATED PARK.

WE CAN HANDLE THE DARK CHORUS
AS, WE KNOW IT WILL COME
WE WILL BE OUR OWN LIGHT
ON OUR WALK IN THE PARK

LIGHTS UP ON:

STREET - LATER THAT NIGHT - MAY 1933

Janine leaves the house that
evening looking for Kurt, she is
in the street. Soon, she is
followed by Jacob.

JACOB

Janine.

JANINE

Jacob, go home.

JACOB

Not without you. It is not safe for you out here.

JANINE

I must find Kurt. He is way overdue to return from the rally.

JACOB

He is probably just drinking with friends.

JANINE

He is my twin. I just have a feeling that there is something wrong.

(Jake starts to protest)

Go home Jacob. The street is no place for boys.

Janine exits. Jacob is indecisive for a moment, then returns from where he came.

LIGHTS UP ON:

CABARET

Rosie sings some more.

ROSIE

THERE IS A SPECIAL GLOW VERSE
THAT CAN RISE FROM THE NIGHT.
MOON BEAMS BRIGHTEN THE PATH
AND SHOW US WHERE TO GO
LIGHT MAY BE OUR GUIDE
IN OUR JOURNEY OF LIFE
AND A BRIGHT, STARRY NIGHT
SHOWS A NEW WAY TO TRY

LIGHTS UP ON:

STREET

Janine enters and sees a body. She rushes to it and discovers it is her brother.

JANINE

Oh my God. Kurt. Breathe. Come on.

She tries to resuscitate him only to discover that he has a wound in his chest. He is beyond help.

JANINE (CONT'D)

No. Oh Kurt. No. Please. No.

LIGHTS UP ON:

CABARET

Rosie sings with the chorus girls.

ROSIE
WE FIND LIGHT IN THE DARK
SO WE KNOW WHERE TO GO
WE WILL FIND MANY WONDERS
ON OUR WALK IN THE PARK

CHORUS

LIGHTS UP ON:

STREET

Men come from offstage, in brown shirts, see Janine hovering over the body.

JANINE
Why did this happen to you, Kurt.

BROWNSHIRT
Your boyfriend will no longer bother us. Heil Hitler!

They click their heels and give the Nazi salute. He continues.

JANINE
I am his sister. How could you kill him? You have no right!

BROWNSHIRT
You think we have no right? We know who we are! And now you are going to know who we are!

The men grab her and make her face their leader.

BROWNSHIRT (CONT'D)
You cannot stop us. He could not, and you cannot. This is only the beginning of what you will get. Prepare her.

They hold her still and start working at the buttons of her clothes. She starts to scream but has something stuffed in her mouth.

BROWNSHIRT (CONT'D)
You think anyone would come to your aid? The streets belong to us.

JANINE

Those animals would have done worse to you.
You're just a boy.

JACOB

Whatever comes, we will face it together. I
will keep you safe from now on.

SONG - "I AM HERE FOR YOU"

I AM HERE FOR YOU
JANINE, MY SISTER, DEAR
NO MATTER WHEN OR WHERE
I WILL ALWAYS BE NEAR
FOR YOU NEED ME NOW
I CAN SEE YOUR PLIGHT
LET US BE TOGETHER
THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

WE HAVE LOST OUR BROTHER
THO' HE NEVER FIRED A GUN
NOW WE CANNOT LOSE EACH OTHER
NO MATTER WHAT MAY COME
WE SHALL MAKE A PACT
JANINE, I TELL YOU TRUE
WE SHALL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
I PROMISE YOU

TOMORROW WE SHALL KNOW
WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING
BUT NOW WE MUST SUFFER
THE END OF OUR SPRING

WE WILL MAKE A PACT
JANINE, I TELL YOU TRUE
WE WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER
I PROMISE YOU
THIS I PROMISE YOU.

BLACKOUT.

MARLENA'S LIVING ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER

The Docs, Janine and Jacob are
again in the living room of the
parent's house. Janine has a
blanket around her but otherwise
has not changed.

MARLENA

Can I get you anything dear?

JANINE

I'd rather keep a clear head.

MARLENA

Janine, dear. We really should get you to bed.

JANINE

I doubt I can sleep.

MARLENA

Well, to rest then. After a traumatic experience-

JANINE

I'm in medical school, mother. I've read the text books. Quit trying to fix me.

Willi enters in a rush.

WILLI

I came as quickly as I could.

He spies Janine and goes to her.
The rest of the family is nervous,
not knowing what he will say.

WILLI (CONT'D)

There's nothing I can say that will help.
However, if you want to hit someone, I can hold
Jacob down for you. He's very small.

Janine is confused for a second.
Then, she starts laughing
uncontrollably. After a moment, it
changes to sobbing. She throws
herself into her mother's arms.
Willi rises and turns to
Friedrich.

WILLI (CONT'D)

This is so terrible.

FRIEDRICH

The Brownshirts will not get away with this.

WILLI

The Brownshirts can act in this way only with
the connivance of the government. You will get
no satisfaction from them.

MARLENA

But we are royalty of the Prussian old guard.

WILLI

The old ways didn't save the Kaiser. Hitler has
fomented hatred of everyone who is different,
including the royals.

JANINE

Kurt and I are proof of that.

MARLENA

We must do something to protect the children.

JANINE

Neither of us is a child.

JACOB

Not anymore.

MARLENA

You will always be my child.

FRIEDRICH

Marlena, I-

MARLENA

I will not see another of my children abused or murdered. My children will be safe.

FRIEDRICH

I was going to say I will not disagree. I will do everything in my power to protect them.

WILLI

As will I.

JANINE

Does that include getting us out of this God forsaken place?

JACOB

Leave Berlin?

JANINE

Leave Germany.

JACOB

Germany is my home.

JANINE

Where your brother was killed and your sister was raped. This isn't our home anymore.

WILLI

If we had a legitimate reason to send them, I could expedite visas and passports.

MARLENA

I have contacts at Johns Hopkins in America, a wonderful medical facility. Janine can continue her training there. I'll send a cable.

WILLI

It shouldn't raise too many eyebrows. What about Jacob?

FRIEDRICH

Jacob can attend a school nearby.

WILLI

He can go to school here. We need a reason.

FRIEDRICH

What if Johns Hopkins took him too? He shows a marvelous aptitude for psychology.

JACOB

I do?

FRIEDRICH

As soon as I create the documents that corroborate it, you do. I'm willing to forge a few documents if it means keeping you safe.

MARLENA

I can't believe that this is our only choice.

WILLI

I don't see an alternative. I'll process their passports tomorrow. I hate to send them by themselves. Could either of you go with them?

FRIEDRICH

I am the head of the country's health system. I must stay to care for our people.

MARLENA

I have babies to deliver. We must both stay.

JANINE

Willi, I am an adult, you know. I can look after Jacob.

WILLI

Sorry, dear one. With the trauma you suffered-

JANINE

I will not be pitied. I can protect Jacob.

JACOB

And I can protect Janine.

WILLI

Well, that will probably make it easier to send them away. If you both remain, no one will think they are going away permanently.

JANINE

So Jacob and I will emigrate to the US.

JACOB

I'm glad we will be together.

Janine pulls her brother close to
her as

LIGHTS FADE.

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - EVENING - ONE WEEK LATER - MARCH 1933

ROSIE

I am so sorry about Kurt. At least now, Janine
and Jacob will be safe.

WILLI

As much as they can be.

ROSIE

Everything is changing so fast. There was a
book burning in the square last week.

WILLI

The book burning is just the beginning of the
anticultural attacks.

(gets more serious)

You know, I should send you away too.

ROSIE

My life is only a life to live with you, now.
If you will not leave, neither will I.

WILLI

I cannot protect you from these people. The
Labor Zionist Leader Chaim Arlosoroff was
killed in Tel Aviv days after negotiating with
the Nazis. That is not a coincidence.

ROSIE

I should be worrying about you. You seem to be
in their sights more than I.

WILLI

We will never be able to be together here.

ROSIE

So we should just be apart? I just found you.
And while it's true that we cannot marry in
Germany, I'm an entertainer. Living in sin is
practically expected.

Willi comes close to Rosie. As he
is holding her, they sing.

SONG -"LET ME SEND YOU AWAY"

WILLI

LET ME SEND YOU AWAY
I'M SO WORRIED FOR YOU
THERE ARE TOO MANY SIGNS
MANY OF THEM ARE NEW
LET ME SEND YOU AWAY
SO THAT SAFE YOU WILL BE
YOU MUST NOT BECOME A LEAF
THAT FALLS FROM THE TREE

I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME
YOU MUST GO FAR AWAY
FAR ACROSS THE SEA.

ROSIE

I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU
THAT WOULD BE TOO HARD FOR ME
FOR THE WORLD HAS CHANGED TO HARDSHIP
WHERE ONCE IT USED TO BE FREE
IF YOU WON'T COME WITH ME
I WILL NOT LEAVE GERMANY
FOR YOU'LL FACE TOO MUCH DANGER
MY LOVE, I CANNOT FLEE.

I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU.
AND WITH YOU I WILL STAY
NO AND'S, IF'S OR BUT'S
SO DON'T SEND ME AWAY.

WILLI

PLEASE RECONSIDER.
THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE.
I CAN'T PROTECT YOU HERE
NO MATTER WHAT MOVE I MAKE
PLEASE! YOU MUST GO
THE RISK IS TOO GREAT
FOR A JEWISH WOMAN
IT'S A TERRIBLE FATE.

ROSIE

I'm a survivor. I will find a way to get
through this.

WILLI

Rosie, you must see reason.

ROSIE

I will not leave. That is the end of it.

BOTH

I LOVE YOU
I LOVE YOU

TOGETHER WE MUST BE
WE SHALL NEVER BE SEPARATED
BY THE DEEP, BLUE SEA.

LIGHTS OUT.

INT. OFFICE OF THE COUNT- MORNING - JUNE 1933

KLAUS, a by-the-book SS officer is
in Willi's office. Willi acts the
part of a believer to get all the
information that he can.

KLAUS

These are the new rules issued by the Reich.
There can be no passports nor visas nor exit
documents of any form for Jews. None!

WILLI

How will I know if an application is for a Jew?

KLAUS

The new forms demand religious affiliation.

WILLI

Many Jews today attend no temple nor practice
their faith. How do we find those Jews?

KLAUS

We will be able to trace them through their
birth records, which they must also provide.

WILLI

So someone may be unaware whether or not he is
a Jew.

KLAUS

The new rules say that if a single grandparent
is Jewish, the applicant is a Jew.

WILLI

The government has thought of everything.

KLAUS

Yes. Of course, if you *know* an applicant is
Jewish, you must deny the applicant.

WILLI

How would I know?

KLAUS

If they look Jewish or behave in a consistently
Jewish manner.

WILLI

I may not be able to discern that, having not spent a lot of time with Jews.

KLAUS

You are fortunate. They're a filthy, conniving people. If you have an applicant that seems not fully German but you can't make a determination, bring the entire folder to me for approval.

WILLI

Very good, captain. I shall instruct my staff.

KLAUS

Your assistant tells me that you have a special list of applicants that you handle personally.

WILLI

I sometimes have personal information about an applicant that I can't trust to a low level bureaucrat. If I see them myself, I can assure the Reich that proper procedures and compliance with the rules have occurred.

KLAUS

Your enthusiasm is unexpected. You had been loyal to the Weimar Republic, so your political persuasions were in doubt.

WILLI

I have always focused my work with responsibility toward the greater good of Germany. You are simply improving my focus.

KLAUS

Oh, my dear Count, I can see we will get along very well. I must be going.

Klaus throws a Nazi salute. Willi bows, and turns to his desk.

KLAUS (CONT'D)

Herr Count? Why did you not return my salute?

WILLI

Forgive me, mein Herr. I'm not a member of the military, I didn't think that it was permitted.

KLAUS

Not only permitted. It is encouraged. I might even say required for all government staff.

WILLI

My apologies. It will not happen again.

Klaus waits patiently for Willi to throw the salute. Willi has trouble hiding his discomfort.

WILLI (CONT'D)

Heil Hitler.

Klaus studies Willi for a moment before returning it. Klaus turns and exits. Willi is relieved.

The assistant enters as Willi moves to his desk.

ASSISTANT

Herr Hans Wilhelm, Countess von Kleister-Graf Kellsburg has arrived.

WILLI

Please, send her in.

The door opens and the assistant waives Marlena in. She waits for him to leave before she speaks. Willi motions her to be silent.

WILLI (CONT'D)

Ah, Marlena, mein Schatz. How beautiful you look today. To what do I owe the pleasure?

Willi walks to his desk and reveals a hidden microphone on his desk. Her eyes go wide.

MARLENA

(struggling)

I just... came over to see... if I could entice you to come out to lunch with me.

WILLI

I'm sorry. I have too much work today. Perhaps I can send out my assistant for something.

Willi urges her to say yes.

MARLENA

That sounds wonderful.

Willi walks to the door and opens it to talk to the assistant. He is right there, apparently listening at the door.

WILLI

Would you run down to the place on the corner and bring my sister and me a couple of roast beef sandwiches with some mustard?

ASSISTANT

Of course, mein Herr.

He hands over some money.

WILLI

Get whatever you'd like for yourself.

ASSISTANT

Thank you, sir.

The Assistant leaves.

WILLI

Mind if we listen to the radio while we wait?

MARLENA

That sounds delightful.

Willi turns on the radio, which is right by the hidden microphone. He motions her away from the radio.

WILLI

I found that today. My idiot assistant must have put it in last night. I found it easily.

MARLENA

Is it safe to talk?

WILLI

For today. When they find that they can't hear any of our conversation, they will reposition the listening device. What can I do for you?

MARLENA

One of my mothers just had her house searched by the SS for Jews. She isn't Jewish, but her husband is. Fortunately, he was away on business, but his return will be his end. They must have passports. As soon as possible.

WILLI

My new superior is a Captain of the SS, assigned here to assure compliance with the new rules. I'm afraid what you ask is quite impossible.

MARLENA

These patients are not animals to be destroyed.

WILLI

I know someone who can help. She can make passports and new birth certificates. They are now checking anyone who looks Jewish. The more Aryan they look, the better.

MARLENA

Our family doesn't look particularly Aryan.

WILLI

I am worried for us as well.

BLACKOUT.

SCHNELLES KATZEN-KABARETT - NIGHT - JUNE 33

Renate, dressed in male drag to the nines, addresses the audience.

RENATE

Gentlemen, summer is here. This is a perfect time to take your favorite girl on a date. She may have a few suggestions, but I know of the perfect place for any occasion.

Rosie enters all dressed for her date. As she sings each suggestion, Renate politely shakes her head "no." Renate sings the chorus. When we repeat the chorus, the chorus girls, dressed as much like men as they can, raucously reinforce the point.

SONG - "TO THE BEER HALL WE WOULD GO"

RENATE (CONT'D)

WHEN IT IS OKTOBERFEST
AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
THEY SAY WHEN YOU'RE IN GERMANY
DO LIKE THE GERMANS DO
IT'S REALLY NO BIG SECRET
HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
WHEN IT IS OKTOBERFEST
TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO

YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO

ROSIE AND RENATE

YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO

ALL

YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO
YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO

Singers come forward with suggestions and they are given definitive answers.

SOLO #1

DO WE GO TO WORSHIP
IN THE CATHEDRAL AT COLOGNE? (ALL: NO!)?
DO WE STAY AT HOME
EATING SCHNITZEL ALL ALONE? (ALL : NO!)

SOLO #2

DO WE HOP A BOAT
AND GO SAILING DOWN THE RHINE? (ALL: NEIN)
FOR WHEN IT IS OKTOBERFEST
WE GRAB OUR LUCKY STEIN AND...

ALL

YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO
YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO
YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO
YAH YAH YAH YAH TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO

SOLO #3

IF WE WERE IN STUTTGART
WE COULD GO TO SEE A BALLET

SOLO #4

AND THE CASTLE AT NEUSCHWANSTEIN
IS QUITE THE PLACE, THEY SAY

ROSIE

BERLIN HAS MANY SIGHTS
TO TAKE YOUR HONEY ON A DATE
THERE'S THE POTSDAMER PLATZ
AND THE BRANDENBERG GATE

An instrumental break for dancing
and what not.

ALL

WHEN IT IS OKTOBERFEST
TO THE BEER HALL WE ALL GO
BUT NO NO NO
NOT TO THE CHURCH NOT TO THE GATE,
NOT TO THE PLATZ, NOT WITH A DATE
WE DON'T GO SAILING OR SWIMMING
OR SKATING OR SKIING
THE THEATRE, A CONCERT OR SHOW
BUT TO THE LOVELY BEER HALL
WE ALL GO!

BLACKOUT.

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - JUNE 1933

Rosie is touching up her make up
as Renate enters her room.

RENATE

Heinrich is on now. He's doing an extra five
minutes of jokes tonight.

ROSIE

Any funny ones?

RENATE

Why would tonight be any different? Then the
girls are doing some French number that shows a
lot of underwear.

ROSIE

Understandable. Tips have been light.

RENATE

And rent is due. Then, you close the night.

ROSIE

Sounds good. You want to grab a late dinner
with me? I'm starved.

RENATE

Can't. I'm leaving right after the show.

ROSIE

Why? Do you have a hot date?

RENATE

Something like that.

Renate seems uncharacteristically
uncomfortable.

ROSIE

What's going on? Schatz, are you all right?

Renate starts to weep.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Renate. What is it? Are you hurt?

RENATE

I'm getting married.

ROSIE

Be serious.

(realizing)

Oh my God, you're serious. So, you're a closet
heterosexual?

RENATE

It is difficult now to be a... woman like me. I have a friend who is a Lieutenant in the Luftwaffe. He is facing the same kind of scrutiny from his commanders. We're getting married to remove suspicion from us both.

ROSIE

I'm so sorry, schatz.

RENATE

I don't want to pretend I am something I'm not, but I don't have a choice. Not here.

ROSIE

Well then. We will make the best of it. Where are you getting married?

RENATE

There's an old Alsatian minister in Strassburg who will marry us no questions asked.

ROSIE

When you get back, we will have a big party. Help you sell the charade. Plus I have some really big news of my own.

Renate cries again.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

It'll be all right. You will see.

RENATE

I'm not coming back.

ROSIE

What?

RENATE

After we're married, he has permission to fly his plane to Paris for our honeymoon. We can disappear there. I have an old girlfriend there who can help us get out of France.

ROSIE

Where will you go?

RENATE

You can't know. I've told you too much already.

ROSIE

I will never see you again? You're supposed to be my baby's godmother.

RENATE

Be serious.

(realizing)

Oh my god, you're serious. You're pregnant?

ROSIE

That was my news.

RENATE

I'm so happy for you. What does Willi think?

ROSIE

He doesn't know yet. I was going to tell him first, but ...

RENATE

Thank you.

(teasing)

I always knew you loved me more.

ROSIE

I'm so sad my baby won't have a crazy aunt.

RENATE

Not to mention all the free baby sitting you'll miss out on.

ROSIE

What if I can't get her to sleep?

RENATE

That's what lullabies are for.

ROSIE

I'm a cabaret singer who was raised in an orphanage. All I know are beer drinking songs.

RENATE

Lucky for you, I am more maternal.

SONG - "FLOWERS"

THE FLOWERS LOOK SO GOOD
ALL YELLOW BLUE AND RED
I THINK THAT THEY LOOK SO PRETTY
UPON THEIR FLOWER BED
TIME TO REST
YAWNING LILIES, SLEEPY DAISIES
ROSES CLOSE THEIR EYES
TIRED FLOWERS, WEARY FLOWERS,
SAY GOOD NIGHT

There is a knock at the door.
Rosie answers it. A fresh bouquet
of flowers is handed to her.

She picks up the song, cradling
her bouquet like a baby.

ROSIE
A FLOWER SMELLS SO GOOD
IT HELPS ME HAVE SWEAT DREAMS

BOTH
LOVELY FLOWERS, DREAMY FLOWERS,
SAY GOOD NIGHT
FLOWERS NOW GO TO SLEEP.

The two friends hold each other.

LIGHTS FADE.

MARLENA'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Friedrich, Willi and Marlena are
deep in discussion.

FRIEDRICH
The Reich is building more camps. Many more
camps. The Dachau camp is where the political
prisoners go. Jews are going to be shipped to
camps outside of Germany.

WILLI
But how does that affect you?

FRIEDRICH
They want me to devise a system to determine
which prisoners are no longer able to work.
They will be sent to the gas chambers and
burned in the crematory.

WILLI
This can't be!

MARLENA
That's horrible!

FRIEDRICH (CONT'D)
I am a doctor. I can't kill these people.
Hippocrates says to do no harm. I can't put the
system in place. Neither can I say no to the
Reich, or I might end up in a camp.

SONG - "I AM CAUGHT"

FRIEDRICH (CONT'D)
I CAN'T DO WHAT I'M ASKED, VERSE
BUT I CANNOT SAY NO
I AM IN A TIGHT SPOT,
A DECISION COULD LAY ME LOW
A HEALTH SYSTEM FOR THE CAMP
THEY WANT ME TO PLAN
BUT HOW CAN I CHOOSE THE FATE
OF EACH WOMAN AND MAN?

WILLI
THERE IS A RISING TIDE
THAT IS MOVING US ALONG
WE'RE UNDER SO MUCH STRESS
THERE'S NO THOUGHT OF RIGHT OR WRONG
THE ASSISTANT THEY'VE ASSIGNED
ONLY CARES FOR HIS REPORT,
CHECKING EACH PIECE OF PAPER
LIKE AN OLYMPIC SPORT

FRIEDRICH
A HEALTH SYSTEM FOR THE CAMP VERSE
SO THEY CAN KILL
IS SO FAR BEYOND
MY PERSONAL WILL
THEY'LL JUDGE ME BADLY
IF I CHOOSE NOT TO GO
BUT I CAN'T SAY YES
AND I CAN'T SAY NO

MARLENA
OUR FAMILY IS FACED WITH
THESE TERRIBLE CHOICES
HOW CAN OUR GERMANY
LEAVE UNHEARD OUR VOICES?
THERE MUST BE A WAY
OUR COUNTRY TO RECOVER
WE'LL FIND SOME OTHER PATH
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER

FRIEDRICH
WHAT IS MY ALTERNATIVE
TO REACHING ANY DECISION?
THERE MUST BE AN ESCAPE
WITHOUT ANY DERISION
I THINK AND I THINK
FOR I AM WELL AWARE
THAT WITHOUT A PLAN
THIS IS MORE THAN A SCARE

Friedrich, Willi and Marlena sing
the following at the same time.

FRIEDRICH (CONT'D)
I MUST SAY NO
THAT'S FOR SURE
THEY'LL TURN ME DOWN
BUT I WILL NOT BE FORCED
A CONUNDRUM FOR ME
WITHOUT A VOICE

WILLI
THERE IS A RISING TIDE
MOVING US ALONG
WE'RE UNDER STRESS
NO THOUGHT OF RIGHT OR WRONG
THE ASSISTANT THEY'VE
ASSIGNED
ONLY CARES FOR HIS REPORT

MARLENA
OUR FAM'LY IS CAUGHT
IN THESE TERRIBLE CHOICES
HOW CAN GERMANY

NOT HEAR OUR VOICES?
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY

ALL THREE
NOW I AM CAUGHT
IN THIS TERRIBLE CHOICE

LIGHTS UP ON:

ROSIE'S DRESSING ROOM - THE NEXT EVENING

Willi is with Rosie in her
dressing room.

WILLI
We must leave Germany. Now. We all must leave.

ROSIE
You have been saying that you must stay to save
German culture. Why must we leave now?

WILLI
I've done all I can do for our German heritage.
Now, it is time the Kellsburg heritage.

ROSIE
What happened?

WILLI
It doesn't matter. We need to leave together,
while we still can.

SONG - "IT IS TIME, MY LOVE"

WILLI (CONT'D)
IT IS TIME MY LOVE
FOR US TO LEAVE TONIGHT
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO STAY
IT IS TIME TO TAKE FLIGHT
THE WARNING SIGNS ARE CLEAR
THEY TELL ME WE MUST FLEE
NO LONGER CAN WE WAIT
WE MUST LEAVE GERMANY

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED
A NEW ONE HAS DAWNED
AND WHAT IS COMING IS BAD
FOR EVIL IT HAS SPAWNED

ROSIE
BUT THIS IS MY HOME
IT'S WHERE I BELONG

WILLI
IT IS NO LONGER YOUR HOME
YOUR GERMANY IS GONE

ROSIE

IF WE MUST GO, THEN GO WE MUST
BUT PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF I MAKE A FUSS
IT'S BREAKING MY HEART TO BE RUNNING AWAY
FROM ALL THAT I LOVE. WHAT MORE CAN I SAY?

WILLI

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE HURTING
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE SAD

ROSIE

PERHAPS SOME DAY WE WILL RETURN
WHEN THINGS ARE NO LONGER BAD

WILLI

THE ILL WINDS THAT ARE BLOWING
WILL BLOW AWAY AND BE GONE
BUT FOR NOW WE'VE GOT TO HURRY
MY LOVE, WE MUST MOVE ON.

ROSIE

Won't it be suspicious, all of us leaving now?

WILLI

I have an idea that may remove suspicions.

Willi produces a ring and kneels.

WILLI (CONT'D)

I am down on my knee to ask you to marry me. I
beg you. No. I demand it. As your Count, I
command that you marry me at once.

ROSIE

This is why you want to marry me? To save my
life. That is no basis for a marriage.

WILLI

I want to marry you because it will save my
life. I'd rather die than be without you. You
are the greatest person I have ever known and
if you love me half as much as I love you, it
is far more love than I will ever deserve.

ROSIE

That's a good answer. Very well. I supposed it
would be better if our child's parents were
married.

WILLI

Rosie. You're pregnant?

ROSIE

I was waiting for the right time to tell you.

WILLI

How could there be a bad time? We're having a baby!

ROSIE

Not if you don't get me out of Germany.

WILLI

Right. Let's pack for a wedding. I can easily get visas to Switzerland for that. We will get married in Geneva. A beautiful place for a beautiful bride.

ROSIE

How can I get a passport? I have never had the documents I now need to get one.

He produces folded documents from his jacket.

WILLI

And now, you do. Rosie Penn, the voice behind Lili Marlene and the darling of the Reich, will get a passport!

ROSIE

Can Friedrich and Marlena come?

WILLI

A proper marriage requires witnesses, right?

LIGHTS FADE.

BORDER CROSSING - NIGHT - THE NEXT DAY

A Nazi OFFICER checks passports, while standing at the station. Willi and Rosie stand in a line with others waiting to cross.

WILLI

It is not like them to be late.

ROSIE

Berlin was a madhouse today. The streets were clogged because of another parade. Do not worry. They will be here.

WILLI

You're right. Here's my sister now.

Marlena enters dressed very well with a small overnight bag. She is alone. Willi and Rosie step out of line to greet her.

MARLENA

Forgive me for being late. I had to get a ride from our cook. My car was impounded by a General who wanted a nicer vehicle.

ROSIE

Is that legal?

MARLENA

I didn't think it wise to protest.

WILLI

What about Friedrich's car? Where is he?

MARLENA

(pause)

Friedrich sends his regrets.

WILLI

He what?

MARLENA

He had a last minute meeting scheduled for him. By the SS.

ROSIE

Oh, Marlena. Is he all right?

MARLENA

The last thing he said to me on the phone was, "I will be late for dinner. Order me the sauerbraten. Europa Haus has the best." He hates sauerbraten. We've never been to Europa Haus. Someone asked him to come with them. Friedrich declined. The next thing I heard were gun shots.

WILLI

Perhaps, he-

MARLENA

No, Willi. He sacrificed himself to help us getaway. I will not dishonor his memory with wishful speculation.

The line has emptied leaving only
Willi, Marlena and Rosie.

OFFICER

Come forward. Show your passports!

WILLI

Here is mine.

The others place their passports
on the desk.

The officer examines each one,
looks at the picture and compares
it to the owner. He stops when he
gets to Rosie.

OFFICER
Rosamunde Penn. Step up.

ROSIE
Yes, my captain.

OFFICER
This isn't a common German name. Are you a Jew?

ROSIE
I am Rosie Penn. You have heard of me. I am on
the radio many times a day. They would not let
me sing on the radio if I were a Jew.

OFFICER
I only listen to the radio occasionally to hear
Lili Marlene. They play it every hour on the
hour. It's how I can reset my watch.

ROSIE
That's me. I shall sing for you. You will know
me when you hear it.

SONG - "LILI MARLENE"

UNDERNEATH THE LANTERN,
BY THE BARRACK GATE
DARLING I REMEMBER
THE WAY YOU USED TO WAIT
T'WAS THERE THAT YOU WHISPERED TENDERLY,
THAT YOU LOVED ME,
YOU'D ALWAYS BE,
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE

TIME WOULD COME FOR ROLL CALL,
TIME FOR US TO PART,
DARLING I'D CARESS YOU
AND PRESS YOU TO MY HEART,
AND THERE 'NEATH THAT FAR-OFF LANTERN LIGHT,
I'D HOLD YOU TIGHT ,
WE'D KISS GOOD NIGHT,
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE

The officer is embarrassed and
tries to make amends.

OFFICER

Miss Penn. Please excuse me. I didn't know the name of the singer. Of course you may pass. Enjoy your visit to Switzerland.

He stamps the passports for exit on each of the three and waives for them through the border control.

As they depart across the border, Willi leans to Rosie and says:

WILLI

As I have always known, you are the royalty.

SONG - "LILI MARLENE" - FINALE

ROSIE

ORDERS CAME FOR SAILING,
SOMEWHERE OVER THERE
ALL CONFINED TO BARRACKS
WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR
I KNEW YOU WERE WAITING IN THE STREET
I HEARD YOUR FEET,
BUT COULD NOT MEET,
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE

ALL

RESTING IN OUR BILLETTS,
JUST BEHIND THE LINES
EVEN THO' WE'RE PARTED,
YOUR LIPS ARE CLOSE TO MINE
YOU WAIT WHERE THAT LANTERN SOFTLY GLEAMS,
YOUR SWEET FACE SEEMS
TO HAUNT MY DREAMS
MY LILI OF THE LAMPLIGHT,
MY OWN LILI MARLENE